



## **SEIZURE AND LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS POLICY STATEMENT**

**as of June 16, 1998**

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**The following minimum standard is applicable to all persons holding or seeking a license to operate a motor vehicle in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided that applicants or licensees for motor vehicle licenses other than class D or M licenses may be subject to distinctive seizure and loss of consciousness standards, as established by the Registry of Motor Vehicles from time to time.**

For the purpose of these standards, "physician" is defined as "a medical doctor who is licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The Registrar, or his designee, may require such additional evidence of the applicant or licensee's medical qualification criteria as he deems appropriate, or may modify these standards as an individual case may require.

### **I. SEIZURE AND LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS STANDARD:**

**A.** Any licensee or applicant for a learner's permit or license who has experienced a seizure, syncope, or any other episode of altered consciousness which will or may affect the safe operation of a motor vehicle must voluntarily surrender his or her license, or be subject to suspension or revocation, until such time as that individual has remained episode free for a period of at least six (6) months. At the end of the six month period, the licensee or applicant may receive his or her learner's permit or license when he or she provides the Registry's Medical Affairs Branch with a written statement completed by his or her physician confirming that the individual has been free from episodes for a minimum of six months and which states all of the following:

- (1)** the cause of the episode (type of disorder suffered); and
- (2)** the means by which the condition is controlled (including any medications and dosages); and
- (3)** the degree of impairment or disability suffered during an episode (extent of episode); and
- (4)** the probability of recurrence of the episode (including frequency of occurrence, degree of assurance that the event will not reoccur, and basis for estimate of

probability); and

(5) the date of most recent episode; and

(6) a certification, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, that the individual's medical condition and medications will not interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

**B.** Pursuant to the advice of the Medical Advisory Board, the Registry has chosen a six month episode free period as appropriate, since, in most cases, it provides a reasonable estimate of probability that the individual will remain episode free for the indefinite future. In addition, a six month period allows the physician sufficient time to evaluate and diagnose the cause of the episode and devise the appropriate treatment plan, and thereby more accurately predict the likelihood of recurrence of the event.

## **II. EXEMPTIONS FROM AND EXTENSIONS OF THE SIX MONTH PERIOD:**

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles or his designee may waive the six month episode free requirement upon receipt of a written statement from a physician, containing all of the above information and requesting that the six month episode free policy be waived because the physician has determined that the individual's medical condition and medications will not interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle, with specific reasons provided for that determination. Conversely, the Registrar or his designee, may require that a person be episode free for longer than six (6) months prior to issuing, renewing, or reinstating a license, as an individual case may require.